

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

August 13, 2009
Newton Senior Center, 4403 Navaho St

Attendees:

Bollinger, Mark	Kester, Betsy	Robinson, Dave
Copeland, Noel	Loshbaugh, Heidi	Sharp, Bernie
Done, Edward	Navarro, Florence	Truwe, Dianne
Gilmore, Scott	Ott, Richard	Watson, Darrell
Holdman, Alexis	Pryor, Keith	

Absent:

Elfenbein, Sharon (excused)
Ewing, Mary (excused)
Horn, Ellie Gray (excused)
Nguyen, Phuonglan (excused)
Ross, Ryan (excused)

Staff:

Bernstein, Mark	Patterson, Kevin
Erickson, Dody	Weiss, Fred
Marquardt, David	Wuertz, Jill
McGranahan, Jill	Unfug, Chantal

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Approval of minutes from July 9, 2009 meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public comments:

Brenda Smith – Commons Park: Greenway Foundation, weeds caused by dogs, current logo, ads for the current company, supportive

Kay LaFontese – Washington Park: opposed to any advertising in any park, proposal is flawed, problem is dog owners, solution is enforcement/officers.

Brad Cameron – Cheesman Park: CHUN opposed, bad policy; how do we know if this is the best proposal?

Janet Lozau – River Front, supportive

Greg Kravitz – support; alcoholics/homeless

Jeremy S. – SunnySide, undercontrol, responsible, supportive

Judi Klariger – support, health perspective

David Huntress – 2001 survey: dog poop #1 issue; population increase should increase, supportive

Greg Karvoritz – 14 against; 50+ people, competition with billboards, opposed

Cathy Donohue – old story 1994; 8 dispenser; kept and filled by CHUN; ran out of money; the city took over. The people who don't pick up now, they won't with dispensers. Enforcement is the only way to do it.

Kathleen Rose – Sponsor/adopt a park, pool, path, sign post etc. Policy creep... string then on everything. It is about trashing the parks with advertising; it is an advertisement and a corporation is making a profit.

Jay Rust – Board of Directors – oppose advertising, agree we want to take out poop, DPR reported 50% won't pick up. What about getting rid of all dispensers and focus on education and enforcement.

Cindy J. – FANS; if there is a change in policy, a full public process. Do not support it. Volunteers have been effective in Washington Park; volunteer work should be applauded; education, enforcement, etiquette.

Bity LaBrae – For-profit companies making \$ in the parks. Supportive if we need an asset management program in parks. Please don't give the assets away until you have a policy.

Diane Helper – INC/DPR committee; was surprised to see it move forward after INC didn't support.

Anne Airey – Furry Scurry – everyone took the PFP bags, supportive

Kirkendall – transitional housing – Mayor's homeless Road Home.

Larry A. – please support the INC proposal

Carol – Whittier – opposed, Fuller Park is 1/3 off lease; so many bags; website – additional 8. Mayor – neighborhood conference encouraged to participate.

Jeff Shoemaker – support. Clarified profit.

Reverend Ewell – Airey's pastor. He has agonized over this. How we disagree is what this has become. How can humans attack another citizen? One who just stood up to try an idea.

Curtis Woodson – Sloans Lake, Mile High Stadium – he pick up the trash; we have to try something; supportive.

Tony Trayher – 29th Grove. Was on DPRAB for 8 years. This proposal is against charter and policy.

(break)

UPDATES AND PRESENTATIONS

Gulch Master Plan – Jill Wuertz

Railyard Dog Park – Mark Bernstein: Did a petition; raised more than 50% \$; through the non-profit, organized it all, construction. We take it on. Our park superintendents/operations have all worked together. Wastewater, DEH to design the waste and underground filtration system. What if dog owners don't pick up? Dog parks

see less waste than open space. DPR don't necessarily pick up dog waste. Red, yellow, green.

Comments:

Keith – great idea. Concern is equity issues across the city. It is good on one side because they can afford it. Need to actively seek other partnerships to fill those needs.

S. Rob – Dog Parks Master Plan – equity is being discussed.

Daryll – Great job communicating/partnerships. BOARD ACTION: Moved/seconded that the name Railyard is ok.

Budget Overview – Fred Weiss (presentation information attached)

Dave Robinson – move to approve the Recommendation to Manager - approved.

Rec Center Task Force - Dody Erickson

Manager Patterson – (apology for long agenda)

PFP – city trying to keep up on our services

Wanted to standardize

CAO

INC / RNO possibilities

Have them currently – DoggiPot

Creative partnerships

Compliance / enforcement – challenges, abuser identification

Non-profit / INC RNO can sponsor the signs too. Could do through a separate vendor.

Comments:

Diane 1 – concern of advertising in the park?

Keith – heard of multiple concerns; for profit; doesn't like the PVC pipe with Safeway bags.

Ed Done – agrees with public private partnerships, but don't want to degrade. Find a sign standard which may make it work. Smaller sign? Visual pollution.

AD – so if you walk to it

Dave – RFP – in current policy; RFS (sponsorship) pilot

Diane – biggest issue was advertising in parks; compromises are good, but it does not dial with the elephant. What about creep?

Chantal – sponsorship policies; rewrite overview

Florence – it can be an entryway. The parks are the way they are because we have been protective. Should look at the policies first.

Ellie – is this the last document? (no, we have a contract)

Heidi – metrix for success? Greatest area of need/waste; greatest need – most used dog bags

Dick O – 1. Idea of signs; already signs in parks; CAO ambiguous policies – please make them clear. 2. Pilot projects, once started usually don't stop. Within the contract – how it dissolves. If it is not working – both ways, but something must be done.

Darryl – how do we define success? Bags, full, located, how many are used. Complaints through Bill, feedback from staff.

BOARD ACTION: Keith moved to recommend, Alexis seconded. Ed – smaller sign; Noel seconded. Vote: yes-8, no-3. Review August 2010. Review of policy drafts will be in the Fall 2009.

Attachment:

*City and County of Denver
Advisory Board of Parks and Recreation
Fiscal Year 2010
Review and Comment of the Proposed
Annual Budget for the Department of
Parks and Recreation*

1. Fees

- a. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) recommends that the department's fees (recreation, permitting and golf) be adjusted to be more closely aligned with the fees charged by other municipalities and, in some cases, the private sector, providing comparable services. This, in fact, still sustains Denver's comparable value to neighboring municipalities and private vendors.
- b. For 2010, PRAB also recommends a minimum cost recovery target of 30% for general fund activities and a pricing structure for golf that generates sufficient revenues to satisfy its capital improvement needs.
- c. Recognizing that certain centers are over activated and that all recreation facilities and golf courses are not the same, PRAB recommends a tiered fee structure that reflects the quality and amenities of each facility. This would better reflect price to value and help influence re-activating lesser used centers by incenting users to those locations.

2. Fundraising

PRAB recommends that the Department place an emphasis on seeking innovative ways to generate outside funding in 2010. Through the newly hired Development Director, the department should put a greater emphasis on developing partnerships with major Denver employers (i.e. Kaiser, Comcast) and significantly increase grant applications.

3. Capital Improvements

PRAB recommends that 2010 Capital Improvement Program be focused on projects that increase efficiencies to save money.

4. Dedicated funding source

PRAB recommends that the Department research the feasibility of implementing a dedicated Parks and Recreation land use fee.

5. Recreation Task Force

PRAB recommends that implementation of the Recreation Task Force recommendations be accelerated in 2010.